

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly replace paragraph [0019] with the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

[0019] Since the light spot is larger than it would be if the end of the fiber had not been thermally expanded, the intensity of the light is less than it would be if the light had been focused to have a smaller light spot diameter at the fiber end. The area of the core at the end of fiber 10 is $\pi \cdot r^2$. If, for example, the unexpanded portion of the core has a diameter of 10 μm and the expanded portion of the core has a diameter of 30 μm , the focusing area at the termination end of the TEC optical fiber 10 may be 9 times (i.e., $(\pi \cdot 30^2) / (\pi \cdot 10^2)$) larger than the focusing area at the termination end of a non-expanded fiber. Accordingly, the optical power may be 9 times higher ~~that~~ than that used with an unexpanded optical fiber while keeping the same (or a reduced) possibility that the light intensity will damage the termination end of the optical fiber 10. If the power of the light output from the light source is the same as that used with an unexpanded optical fiber, the larger core focusing area at the termination end of the TEC optical fiber may reduce the possibility that the light intensity will damage the termination end of optical fiber 10.